

SECTION 805 -- MULCHING

805.01 -- Description

This work shall consist of providing, placing, and crimping mulch on areas shown in the plans or identified by the Engineer as being seeded in accordance with Section 803.

805.02 -- Material Requirements

1. a. Mulch shall be either dry cured native prairie hay, native grass hay from seed growing operations, native grass hay from planted warm season grass stands, or threshed grain straw.

b. Brome hay is not allowed.

c. (1) The mulch shall be certified as "Noxious Weed Free" by the "County Weed Control Authority" or other authorized agents.

(2) The certification or a copy shall accompany each load of mulch.

(3) The certification shall be placed in a weather-proof container and attached to the stack of mulch it represents.

2. Hay or straw in a stage of decomposition so advanced as to "powder" in the mulch blower shall be rejected.

3. The Contractor shall notify the Engineer as to where he/she proposes to obtain the hay. The Contractor will be notified if the source of hay is satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

4. Straw shall be from threshed oats, wheat, or rye. Rye straw shall not be used in any wheat growing area. The straw shall be baled before the seasonal growth of annual weeds.

5. a. All mulch deliveries shall have tickets from a scale approved by the Engineer before the mulch is unloaded for use on the project. The scale ticket shall indicate the weight and be dated and signed by the scale operator.

b. The scale ticket shall be given to the Engineer or left in a weather-proof container and attached to the stack of mulch it represents.

c. The Engineer may, at any time, order the Contractor to reweigh the mulch as a check of the scale ticket.

805.03 -- Construction Methods

1. The Contractor shall apply the mulch within 24 hours after planting the seed, unless otherwise directed by the Engineer. The mulch shall be applied uniformly over tilled areas with a mulch blowing machine.

2. Hay shall be applied at the rate of 2 tons/acre.

3. Straw shall be applied at the rate of 2.25 tons/acre.

4. The mulch shall be applied loose enough to allow sunlight to penetrate and air to slowly circulate, but thick enough to partially shade the ground, reduce water evaporation, and reduce wind and water erosion.

5. a. Immediately after applying the mulch, the Contractor shall anchor it to the soil using a mulch crimper with approximately 6 inch cleats or other approved equipment with perpendicular, dull, disc blades.

b. All mulch shall be crimped the same day it is applied.

c. The crimper shall be narrow enough or hinged to uniformly crimp the mulch into the shoulder area. More than one crimping may be necessary in the shoulder area if directed by the Engineer.

6. The Contractor shall use 10 percent more mulch and no crimping on:

a. Seed beds that get rained on before being mulched.

b. Mulched areas that get rained on before crimping.

805.04 -- Method of Measurement

1. The weight of the mulch is measured in tons.

2. The Contractor will provide the Engineer scale tickets showing the weight of mulch provided.

3. a. The weight of mulch applied is calculated by multiplying the measured area times the specified application rate.

b. When the total weight from the scale tickets is within 5 percent of the specified weight, then the pay quantity will be the specified weight.

c. When the Engineer directs in writing the application of a weight greater than the specified weight, then the Department will pay for the quantity of additional mulch that is more than 105 percent of the originally specified weight.

d. When the weight tickets show that the weight applied is less than 95 percent of the specified weight, then the Department pay quantity will be the weight determined by adding the quantities on the scale tickets.

e. If the Contractor applies more mulch than directed by the Engineer, then the weight over 100 percent of the specified weight or the amount directed by the Engineer is provided at no additional cost to the Department.

805.05 -- Basis of Payment

1. Pay Item	Pay Unit
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Mulch	Ton (Tn)
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2. Payment is full compensation for all work prescribed in this Section.